

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01534 282051Z

67

ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8684

USUN NEW YORK 074

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN BF

SUBJ: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS WITH BAHAMAS

REF: (A) STATE 220772, (B) STATE 220773, (C) STATE 180074

1. IN SEPT 27 MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY DR. DAVIDSON HEPBURN OF GCOB MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, EMBASSY POLOFF RAISED ALL ISSUES LISTED IN PARA 7, REF (A) USING TALKING POINTS IN THAT PARA. WITH EXCEPTION OF LACK OF CLARITY ON ZIONISM/RACISM AND STATEMENT THAT GCOB COULD DO LITTLE TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT UNRWA, HEPBURN EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH ALL USG POSITIONS ON ISSUES RAISED, POINTING OUT THAT SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WERE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO GCOB. HEPBURN ALSO RAISED KOREA IN GENERALLY UNHELPFUL WAY.

2. ZIONISM/RACISM: HEPBURN FELT THAT ZIONISM ISSUE WOULD AGAIN BE RAISED AND THAT IT WOULD AGAIN PROVE DISRUPTIVE. HE CLAIMED THAT ISRAEL IS IN A STRONGER POSITION THIS YEAR THANKS TO THE ENTEBBE RAID AND SAID IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE BLOCS HOLD UP ON THIS ISSUE. ALTHOUGH HEPBURN'S STATEMENT THAT GCOB WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW TO HANDLE THIS ONE FELL SHORT OF PREVIOUS
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01534 282051Z

GCOB SUPPORT, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT

GCOB WILL NOT AGAIN BE WITH US ON A VOTE.

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA: HEPBURN ASKED ABOUT PRESS REPORTS INDICATING LESS THAN FULL SUPPORT BY FIVE "FRONTLINE" PRESIDENTS FOR RHODESIA PLAN. REPORTING OFFICER SAID THAT HE, TOO, HAD SEEN ONLY PRESS REPORTS, BUT THAT, AS SECRETARY HAD NOTED, IT APPEARED THAT A SMALL PORTION OF THE STATEMENT OF THE FIVE HAD BEEN USED AS THE LEAD FOR THOSE PRESS REPORTS. A CAREFUL READING OF THE ENTIRE STATEMENT, IT WAS SUGGESTED TO HEPBURN, PROBABLY WOULD INDICATE THAT "WE ARE NOT THAT FAR APART". HE AGREED, IN ANY EVENT, THAT OUR PRESENT PEACE INITIATIVES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND GIVEN A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. HE FURTHER AGREED THAT UNGA DEBATE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE HARMFUL BUT FEARED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD COME UP AT THE UNGA AND THAT IT WOULD PROVE VERY DISRUPTIVE.

4. KOREA: WHEN HEPBURN RAISED KOREA ISSUE BY EXPRESSING RELIEF THAT "OTHER SIDE'S" RESOLUTION HAD BEEN DROPPED, REPORTING OFFICER COMMENTED ALONG LINES OF REF (B), STRESSING OUR BELIEF THAT BEST COURSE IS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. HEPBURN OBJECTED, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT "THE PROBLEM WITH THAT COURSE IS THAT THE TWO PARTIES DO NOT TALK". "PERSONALLY", HE WOULD FAVOR THE ENTRY OF BOTH KOREAS INTO UN AND HOPED THAT GCOB COULD AVOID GETTING INVOLVED SHOULD THE ISSUE COME TO THE FORE AGAIN. THESE VIEWS MORE PROBABLY DO REFLECT HEBPBURN'S PERSONAL THINKING RATHER THAN THAT OF GCOB, BUT WE WILL BE ALERT FOR ANY INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY.

5. PERSONNEL: WHILE INDICATING THAT MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY WOULD BE ATTENDING UNGA LATER IN THE SESSION, HEPBURN REITERATED THAT AMBASSADOR L. B. JOHNSON, WHO WILL BE SPENDING MORE TIME IN NEW YORK THAN PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN THE CASE, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DAY-IN-DAY-OUT REPRESENTATION OF GCOB AT UNGA. HEPBURN, WHO WILL BACK-STOP UNGA AT MINISTRY, WILL HIMSELF MAKE A FEW TRIPS TO NEW YORK DURING SESSION. HE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGES IN USUN STAFF THAT HE SHOULD BE AWARE OF. PLEASE ADVISE.

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PAGE 03 NASSAU 01534 282051Z

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